



# San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

CONTACT: Steven Gold, Deputy City Attorney, (619) 236-6508; San Diego City Attorney Media Information, (619) 235-5725.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, July 1, 1999**

### **SAN DIEGO HOTEL OWNERS FINED FOR ILLEGALLY DISPOSING ASBESTOS DEBRIS**

**San Diego, CA (July 1, 1999)** - The owners of a San Diego hotel will pay \$187,000 in civil penalties, costs, and other monetary relief to settle an environmental case prosecuted by the San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit.

The civil complaint, filed in San Diego Superior Court, alleged the owners of the Quality Inn and Suites Hotel on Seventh Avenue in downtown San Diego illegally disposed of asbestos-contaminated construction debris. The complaint also alleged the defendants violated the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants by emitting the asbestos-contaminated debris into the air.

Investigators from the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department, and Cal OSHA learned about this incident from an anonymous complaint during renovation of the hotel. Investigators discovered the defendants improperly removed and illegally disposed of the asbestos.

As part of the settlement, the hotel owners, who cooperated with law enforcement, will implement an environmental management system to increase employee and guest safety. This management system, known as I.S.O. 14001, focuses on environmental compliance, pollution prevention, and pollution reduction. The defendants are also required to host four public meetings to educate local hotels, businesses, and the public about the I.S.O. 14001 program, with the goal of improving the quality of life for all San Diegans. For information on these meetings, contact S. Wayne Rosenbaum, attorney for the defendants, at (619) 236-1551.

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**1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620, San Diego, California 92101-4188 (619) 236-6220**